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JC715 U.S. PTO

STERNE, KESSLER, GOLDSTEIN & FOX P.L.L.C.

ATTORNEYS AT LAW

1100 NEW YORK AVENUE, N.W., SUITE 600
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005-3934

www.skpf.com

PHONE: (202) 371-2600 FACSIMILE: (202) 371-2540

JC892 U.S. PTO
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08/18/00

ROBERT GREENE STERNE
EDWARD J. KESSLER
JORGE A. GOLDSTEIN
SAMUEL L. FOX
DAVID K.S. CORNWELL
ROBERT W. ESMOND
TRACY-GENE G. DURKIN
MICHELE A. CIMBALA
MICHAEL B. RAY
ROBERT E. SOKOHL
ERIC K. STEFFE
MICHAEL Q. LEE

STEVEN R. LUDWIG
JOHN M. COVERT*
LINDA E. ALCORN
RAZ E. FLESHNER
ROBERT C. MILLONIG
MICHAEL V. MESSINGER
JUDITH U. KIM
TIMOTHY J. SHEA, JR.
DONALD R. MCPHAIL
PATRICK E. GARRETT
STEPHEN G. WHITESIDE
JEFFREY T. HELVEY*

HEIDI L. KRAUS
JEFFREY R. KURIN
RAYMOND MILLIEN
PATRICK D. O'BRIEN
LAWRENCE B. BUGAISKY
CRYSTAL D. SAYLES*
EDWARD W. YEE
ALBERT L. FERRO*
DONALD R. BANOWIT
PETER A. JACKMAN
MOLLY A. MCCALL
TERESA U. MEDLER

JEFFREY S. WEAVER
KRISTIN K. VIDOVIK
KENDRICK P. PATTERSON
DONALD J. FEATHERSTONE
GRANT E. REED
VINCENT L. CAPUANO
JOHN A. HARROUN*
MATTHEW M. CATLETT*
NATHAN K. KELLEY*
ALBERT J. FASULO II*
W. BRIAN EDGE*

KAREN R. MARKOWICZ**
SUZANNE E. ZISKA**
BRIAN J. DEL BUONO**
ANDREA J. KAMAGE**
NANCY J. LEITH**
TARJA H. NAUKKARINEN**

*BAR OTHER THAN D.C.
**REGISTERED PATENT AGENTS

August 18, 2000

WRITER'S DIRECT NUMBER:
(202) 789-5506

INTERNET ADDRESS:
RMILLIEN@SKGF.COM

Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Box Patent Application

Re: U.S. Non-Provisional Utility Patent Application under 37 C.F.R. § 1.53(b)
Appl. No. To be assigned; Filed: August 18, 2000
For: **A Method, System and Computer Program Product for Valuating
Natural Gas Contracts Using Weather-Based Metrics**
Inventors: Roberto C. MACHADO, Jr., Paul M. CORBY, and
Bruce H. FRECH
Our Ref: 1481.0240000

Sir:

The following documents are forwarded herewith for appropriate action by the U.S.
Patent and Trademark Office:

1. USPTO Utility Patent Application Transmittal Form PTO/SB/05;
2. U.S. Utility Patent Application entitled:

**A Method, System and Computer Program Product for Valuating Natural
Gas Contracts Using Weather-Based Metrics**

and naming as inventors:

Roberto C. MACHADO, Jr., Paul M. CORBY, and Bruce H. FRECH

the application comprising:

09641394-081800

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- a. specification containing:
 - i. 27 pages of description prior to the claims;
 - ii. 4 pages of claims (6 claims);
 - iii. a one (1) page abstract;
- b. Eight (8) sheets of drawings: (Figures 1-3, 4A-B, 5-8);
- 3. 37 C.F.R. § 1.136(a)(3) Authorization to Treat a Reply As Incorporating An Extension of Time (in duplicate); and
- 4. Two (2) return postcards.

It is respectfully requested that, of the two attached postcards, one be stamped with the filing date of these documents and returned to our courier, and the other, prepaid postcard, be stamped with the filing date and unofficial application number and returned as soon as possible.

This patent application is being submitted under 37 C.F.R. § 1.53(b) without Declaration and without filing fee.

Respectfully submitted,

STERNE, KESSLER, GOLDSTEIN & FOX P.L.L.C.



Raymond Millien
Attorney for Applicants
Registration No. 43,806

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of:

Machado, Jr. *et al.*

Appl. No. To be assigned

Filed: August 18, 2000

For: **A Method, System and Computer
Program Product for Valuating
Natural Gas Contracts Using
Weather-Based Metrics**

Art Unit: To be assigned

Examiner: To be assigned

Atty. Docket: 1481.0240000



**Authorization To Treat A Reply As Incorporating An Extension Of Time
Under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136(a)(3)**

Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

The U.S. Patent and Trademark Office is hereby authorized to treat any concurrent or future reply that requires a petition for an extension of time under this paragraph for its timely submission, as incorporating a petition for extension of time for the appropriate length of time. The U.S. Patent and Trademark Office is hereby authorized to charge all required extension of time fees to our Deposit Account No. 19-0036, if such fees are not otherwise provided for in such reply. A duplicate copy of this authorization is enclosed.

Respectfully submitted,

STERNE, KESSLER, GOLDSTEIN & FOX P.L.L.C.

Raymond Millien
Attorney for Applicants
Registration No. 43,806

Date: 8/18/00

1100 New York Avenue, N.W.
Suite 600
Washington, D.C. 20005-3934
(202) 371-2600

0240000.aut